

Deputy Assistant Director, ORR

7 April 1958

Chief, Geographic Research Area

GRA Contribution to the Semi-Annual Report to the President's Board of Consultants on Foreign Economic and Geographic Intelligence Activities

I. Economic and Geographic Intelligence Production

B. Geographic

1. Further progress was made in the production of unconventional warfare feasibility studies in accordance with the program established by interested agencies. One such study, completed previously, was used in analysis and planning related to the Indonesian rebellion.

2. Sharply-increased geographic intelligence was produced on nuclear energy sites and guided missile ranges in the USSR, including analyses of the testing site on Novaya Zemlya and the missile range in Cheva. Study of Soviet geodetic and gravimetric capabilities continued to provide essential support to the reliable assessment of Soviet plans and capabilities in the earth satellite and missiles field.

3. An analysis of Soviet IGY activities and intentions was contributed to a Special National Intelligence Estimate on Antarctica.

4. Special studies of North African and Latin American boundary problems, contrasting national policies on territorial waters, and the internal administrative divisions of Free World and Bloc countries were among other geographic research activities.

II. Major Intelligence Gaps

B. Geographic Intelligence

1. As a result of the particular efforts of the CIA and the Department of the Army during the period under review, the lack of adequate topographic maps of the USSR has been recognized by all concerned agencies as a critical intelligence deficiency. A fully coordinated collection program is being developed which brings to bear on the problem the concentrated resources of the intelligence community.

2. While the flow of intelligence from Egypt and Syria has been sharply reduced, conditions related to other parts of the Near East show spotty improvement. For instance, one major gap was recently eliminated with the acquisition of all Iraqi maps--including over 6,000 topographic maps--produced since 1947. A potentially serious collection problem remains with respect to Africa.

III. Dissemination and Utilization of ORR Products

B. Geographic Intelligence

1. Intelligence on the importance of U. S. technical superiority in the production of gravimeters was supplied to the Department of Commerce, and led to the revocation of licenses for the export of gravimeters to Poland.

2. Intelligence provided to the Department of State was utilized in the settlement of the Spanish-Moroccan dispute following U. S. intervention.

3. A representative of ORR briefed the President and the National Security Council on the military geography of Sumatra.

4. A letter was received from the Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence, USAF, commending the Agency for the support given to USAF in the field of Evasion and Escape.

IV. Guidance to Collectors and Intelligence Collection Activities

1. As noted in paragraph II above, major progress has been achieved in developing a coordinated inter-agency program for the collection of Soviet topographic maps. A comprehensive statement of scale and area priorities has been provided to the clandestine services for planning purposes. Additional detailed guidance is under preparation.

2. A proposal for the exchange of geographers between the U. S. and the USSR is under consideration by the East-West Exchange Staff, Department of State. Should the exchange be successfully negotiated, it is anticipated that a substantial net intelligence return will be realized by the United States.

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V. Coordination of Economic and Geographic Intelligence

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